

Appl. No. 10/734,885
Amdt. Dated 09/16/04
Reply to Office Action of 06/16/04

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants would like to thank the examiner for the thorough review of the present application. Applicants confirm the examiner's presumption that all subject matter claimed in the present invention were commonly owned at the time the invention was made.

The examiner has rejected independent claims 1, 8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,470,238 to Correale in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,832,598 to Strub and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,811,673. The examiner has objected to claims 4-7, 10-13 and 15-18 but will allow such claims if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of their associated Independent and intervening claims respectively.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8 and 14 to include the recitations of dependent claims 4, 10-11, and new claim language, to overcome the examiner's rejections objections, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit current amended claim 8 further defines the claimed panels as having generally rectangular shapes. Such additional claim language overcomes any potential double patenting rejections.

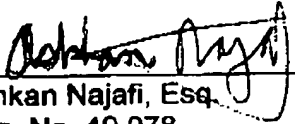
In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the original claims should be considered as no longer tenable with respect to currently amended independent claims 1, 8 and 14. All remaining pending dependent claims necessarily include the recitations of their independent claims and therefore are also in condition for allowance.

Should the examiner consider necessary or desirable to make formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawings, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by examiner's Amendment, if the examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively, should the examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,
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